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# The Confederate Monument In Athens, Georgia

By E. MERTON COULTER\*

"In my native town of Athens is a monument that crowns its central hill—a plain, white shaft. Deep cut into its shining side is a name dear to me above the names of men, that of a brave and simple man who died in brave and simple faith. Not for all the glories of New England—from Plymouth Rock all the way—would I exchange the heritage he left me in his soldier's death. To the foot of that shaft I shall send my children's children to reverence him who ennobled their name with his heroic blood."<sup>1</sup> So spoke Henry W. Grady in his celebrated New South address before the New England Society in the City of New York in 1886.

Grady was alluding to one of the earliest of the almost innumerable monuments in the South which following the Civil War were erected to the memory of Confederate soldiers—a movement which continued for almost a half century before it had run its course. The monument in Athens was probably the ninth in the South and the second in Georgia.<sup>2</sup> Raising money and

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1. This quotation is taken from the speech as it was printed in Raymond B. Nixon, *Henry W. Grady. Spokesman of the New South* (New York, 1943), 348. A copy of this speech may be found also in J. C. Harris, *Life of Henry W. Grady including his Writings and Speeches* (New York, 1890), 83-93, with the quoted part on page 91.

2. This seems to be the order of the erection of Confederate monuments in the South in the years immediately following the war: Cheraw, S. C., June, 1867; Romney, W. Va., September, 1867; Tuscaloosa, Ala., 1868; Fayetteville, N. C., 1868; Griffin, Ga., 1869; Lynchburg, Va., 1869; Richmond, Va., 1869; Liberty, Miss., 1871; Athens, Ga. 1872; St. Augustine Fla., 1872; Augusta, Ga., 1873; Atlanta, Ga., 1874; Savannah, Ga., 1875. For information on this subject see *Confederate Veteran* (Nashville, Tenn.), January, 1905 (XIII, 1), 1; May, 1911 (XIX, 5), 233; August, 1911 (XIX, 8), 372-73; November, 1911 (XIX, 11), 518; Mrs. B. A. C. Emerson, *Historic Southern Monuments. Representative Memorials of the Heroic Dead of the Southern Confederacy*. (New York, 1911); Mildred Lewis Rutherford, *What the South May Claim or Where the South Leads* (pamphlet. Athens, no date); *Athens Banner*, April 26 (22-2), 1912. The numbers in parentheses following the date of newspaper citations refer to the page and column respectively.

erecting Confederate monuments was almost entirely the work of Southern women, as the men, most of whom had been soldiers in the war, felt that it would be impolitic, if not a violation of the spirit of their paroles, to engage in this activity. But the women, the last if ever to be reconstructed according to Northern standards, could not only show their continuing loyalty to the Confederate tradition, but also their defiance of their enemies in war, and hardly less in peace, by erecting these monuments—monuments remindful of Confederate heroism and of Northern aggression.

The Athenians were noted for their refusal to embrace the “new day,” and the women, especially, were famed for their support of the war no less than for keeping green the memory of it. A Federal officer in Athens said a year after the struggle had ended, that “the people of Athens were more disloyal now than they were the day Gen. Lee surrendered.”<sup>3</sup> It was during the war that the women organized their Ladies’ Aid Society to befriend and help soldiers going to battle and returning and to send to those in the service warm clothing and parcels of good things to eat. With the war over and lost, this enthusiasm was readily transformed into a sentimental attachment to the memory of those who had lost their lives in the great conflict.<sup>4</sup> With this in mind, the women of Columbus, Georgia, organized in early 1866 the Ladies’ Memorial Association, for the purpose of decorating the graves of Confederate soldiers. As Confederate soldiers’ graves were scattered widely over the former Confederacy, this movement soon spread to other states. The Georgia women immediately interested their state legislature in this activity and led it in December, 1866 to appropriate not only \$4,000 for giving decent burial and decorating the graves of the Confederate dead along Sherman’s march, but also to give \$1,000 to care for Confederate graves in the Oak Wood Cemetery in Richmond, Vir-

3. *Southern Watchman* (Athens, Ga.), May 9 (3-1), 1866.

4. *History of Confederate Memorial Associations of the South*. (Revised and Authorized Edition. New Orleans, 1904), 106. The first president of the Athens Society was Mrs. Myrtis Franklin, followed by Mrs. Williams Rutherford (Laura Cobb).

ginia and an additional \$1,000 for the Confederate soldiers' graves around Fredericksburg in the same state.<sup>5</sup>

The Athens ladies immediately became a branch of the Memorial Association, in reality merging their wartime Ladies' Aid Society into the Ladies' Memorial Association. They chose three great tasks to which they would devote their attention: decorating Confederate graves, removing the remains of Confederate soldiers to cemeteries, and erecting monuments to their memory. The moving spirit in this Athens Association was Mrs. Williams Rutherford (Laura Cobb), the wife of a professor in the University of Georgia, and a sister of the famous Cobb brothers, Howell and Thomas R. R. She was the first president and continued in that office until her death in 1888.<sup>6</sup>

The first activities of the ladies was to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had been buried in the Athens cemetery and to erect little memorials to those who had not yet been brought back. This was on May 4th of 1866—not April 26th which the parent Association in Columbus had set. The Athens ladies always chose some day in early May, as flowers were more plentiful then. This first Memorial Day was made a very special occasion. For three days, the ladies had been preparing for it in the Town Hall, where they busied themselves in making wreaths, crosses, and other floral designs. On the appointed day the procession began at the University Chapel. Little girls, leading the way, carried bouquets and baskets of flowers, next came the young ladies with wreaths of roses and garlands of other flowers, and then the married ladies marched with crosses, crowns, and anchors of flowers. An immense throng of people, white and black, followed them to the cemetery. Chancellor Andrew A. Lipscomb of the University of Georgia offered a prayer and William M. Browne, now a resident of Athens but formerly a Washington

5. *Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, Passed in Milledgeville, at an Annual Session, in November and December, 1866* (Macon, 1867), 12.

6. *Athens Banner*, April 26 (3-1), 1912. The other officers were: Mrs. Augusta Clayton King, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Howell Cobb, first vice president; Mrs. Young L. G. Harris, second vice president. See also A. L. Hull, *Annals of Athens, Georgia, 1801-1901* (Athens, 1906), 338.

newspaper editor and later an important Confederate official and military officer, made a short address. What he said was not recorded, but he probably did not heed the advice of John H. Christy, the editor of the Athens *Southern Watchman*, that “Not one word need be said—not one note of eulogy sounded—History will take care of all that, when the Truth comes to be written.” Adding poetic sentiment to his account of this occasion, Christy quoted from a poem of eight stanzas this one:

“Unknown to me, brave boy, but still I wreath  
 For you the tenderest of wild-wood flowers;  
 And o’er your tomb a virgin’s prayer I breathe  
 To greet the pure moon and April showers.”

All the soldiers’ graves were decorated, but receiving special recognition was the tomb of General Thomas R. R. Cobb, who had fallen at the Battle of Fredericksburg. A temporary pillar, surmounted by a column broken at the top, contained the names of all the Confederate dead from Athens and Clarke County.<sup>7</sup>

The next year the graves were again decorated and editor Christy remarked, “It is peculiarly appropriate for the daughters of the South to offer annually this pious tribute to the memory of those who fell in the defence of the Lost Cause. It is true they are beyond the reach of praise or censure; but those who survive are not thereby relieved from the obligations of gratitude. Let our maids and matrons then, continue to place on their graves annually the poetic and beautiful offering of sweet May flowers.” And then most appropriately he quoted a stanza of Theodore O’Hara’s famous poem “The Bivouac of the Dead,” a stanza which later the Federal Government was to place over the gateway to the

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7. *Southern Watchman*, May 2 (3-1). For instance, in 1869 the graves were decorated on May 11th. *Southern Watchman*, May 12 (3-1), 1869. Referring to the crowd which attended the occasion in 1866, the editor of the *Southern Watchman*, May 8 (3-1), 1866, said that “the whole population of the town, or nearly so, turned out, and the exercises were solemn and impressive.”

Federal Cemetery at Arlington and still later to use in all the cemeteries of Federal soldiers throughout the land:

“The muffled drum’s sad toll has beat  
The soldier’s last tattoo;  
No more on life’s parade shall meet  
The brave and daring few.  
On Fame’s eternal camping-ground  
Their silent tents are spread,  
While Glory guards, with solemn round,  
The bivouac of the dead.”<sup>8</sup>

The Athens editor continued to use the last four lines of this stanza whenever he commented on decorating Confederate graves.

In 1868, after quoting his customary O’Hara lines, the editor observed, “One can afford to die for his country when he knows that his grave will be annually decorated by votive offerings of early Spring flowers and garlands wove by the hands of the pure, the good and the beautiful.”<sup>9</sup>

After the monument which Grady had referred to, had been erected flowers were annually placed at its base and then, year after year on down into the twentieth century, the procession marched to the cemetery where the Confederate graves were decorated with flowers and Confederate flags.

And with the passing of time the remains of Confederate soldiers were removed from battlefields and improvised cemeteries and brought to Athens for their final resting place. And Athenians remembered from their Bibles these lines: “In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and would not be comforted, because they are not.”<sup>10</sup> On this theme a poet constructed a poem of seven stanzas, entitled “Bury our Dead,” of which these are two:

8. *Southern Watchman*, May 8 (3-1), 1867. See also *ibid.*, February 15 (2-1), 1871.

9. *Southern Watchman*, May 6 (3-1), 1868. For the 1869 account see *ibid.*, May 12 (3-1), 1869.

10. *Matthew*, ii, 18.

"Mothers bereft! Unburied sons  
 Claim graves upon ancestral sod!  
 Thine are the hands to lift them up  
 And give them back again to God!  
     With feeble step,  
     And silvered head,  
     Ye childless Rachels  
     Raise thy dead!  
 While angels chant the martyr knell,  
 Aye, lift them gently where they fell.

Oh, sisters, we have early worn  
 Black grief, in voiceless, deadly pain  
 Of stifled tears! The sickening cry  
 For Rama's sturdy manhood slain!  
     Come, maidens, come,  
     The task is ours,  
     To wreath their tombs  
     With Southern flowers.  
 Come, softly, while the sad refrain  
 Floats on—oh, bring them home again."<sup>11</sup>

Only enthusiasm for a cause was required to pluck flowers and with them decorate graves; something more was needed to bring back the remains of soldiers fallen on the field of battle; to erect a monument, enthusiasm and much more were required. Money must be raised in a land desolated by war where people were growing up; some of whom scarcely knew the appearance of a United States coin. Yet the women set to work with a determination not to be denied, to raise the money necessary for erecting a monument. Even before the Ladies' Memorial Association had been organized or Memorial Day devised, the women of Athens had set out to build a monument to the Confederate dead. On February 16, 1866 they gave a concert to promote the "erection of a Cenotaph to the Memory of the 'Hero Dead' of Athens and vicinity." It was a success far beyond anticipation, for more than \$200 was raised. A large audience, starving for something to do or see, attended, "composed mainly of the beauty and fashion for

11. Quoted from the *Montgomery Mail* in *Southern Watchman*, April 18 (1-7), 1866.

which our town stands pre-eminent," in the words of editor Christy.<sup>12</sup> The performance haunted him for the whole following week and led him to say in the next issue of his paper: "By all means let us have another concert. When the eye and the ear can be feasted on the exquisite dainties that were spread before the audience in such sybarithic luxury, on the 16th inst., and when the object, too, is such a noble one—the building a monument that shall tell to the last syllable of recorded time of the virtues and valor of our HEROIC DEAD—we think that a weekly repetition would not be satiate."<sup>13</sup> This concert was not repeated weekly, but during the year several more entertainments were given and more money raised.<sup>14</sup>

A favorite of Athens audiences was "The Flower Queen." This "beautiful cantata" was given several times during the year 1867 and was every time a "splendid success." At the first performance the hall "was crowded and every body delighted."<sup>15</sup> At another time, the young ladies performed "before a highly appreciative audience of citizens and strangers." The singing was "very fine, while the oldest fogies present were enthusiastic in praise of the beautiful appearance of the young ladies."<sup>16</sup> The price of admission was one dollar.

Entertainments of every sort were set before the Athenians and any "strangers" who might happen to be in town or who might be sent as, for example, Federal occupying soldiers. Though the ladies of the town were generally the performers, yet the men and the University students, too, put on their shows. Not all of these young lady performers were native residents of Athens; to their talents were added those of the out-of-town girls attending the two finishing schools in town—the Lucy Cobb Institute and Madame Sosnowski's Home School. In 1870 the Sosnowski girls gave a "Cenotaph Concert" of their own, in which they sang and played on musical instruments, and, thereby, raised considerable money for the Monument Fund.<sup>17</sup> The Athens Thes-

12. *Southern Watchman*, February 21 (3-1), 1866.

13. *Ibid.*, February 28 (3-1), 1866.

14. For instances, see *ibid.*, April 18 (3-1), December 19 (3-1), 1866.

15. *Ibid.*, May 8 (3-1), 1867. See also *ibid.*, May 1 (3-1).

16. *Ibid.*, August 14 (3-1), 1867. See also *ibid.*, July 31 (3-1).

17. *Ibid.*, July 13 (3-1), 1870.



pian Club gave a humorous performance entitled “‘Pizarro’ and ‘Box and Cox’ l’Africane,” which did not attract a very large audience, and this fact led to the comment: “Our people do not seem to appreciate the drama but some of them are ‘great’ on monkey shows, cock-fights, etc.”<sup>18</sup> This comment seemed hardly justified in the light of the large audiences which attended the cantatas and other formal concerts. The “May Queen” was given now and then, with, of course, the queen, as well as gypsies, the muses, and so on, making up the cast.<sup>19</sup> Burlesques received enthusiastic support, whether given by town or gown. A “considerable amount” was raised at one such performance in 1871 and the same year the University boys gave another, inviting everybody in town and the country at fifty cents each—“Come! come! if you wish to laugh.”<sup>20</sup> The mischievous University boys gave a burlesque on the young ladies’ “May Queen,” which was “perfectly ridiculous,” but which helped the Monument Fund.<sup>21</sup>

Tableaux were given, enjoyed, and repeated. In ushering in this form of entertainment the *Southern Watchman* editor bespoke its success: “We trust and believe that our citizens will show their appreciation of the earnest efforts of our noble ladies in this good cause, by greeting them with crowded houses. We have conversed with one of the Managers, and are assured that these exhibitions will surpass any thing of the kind ever before attempted in this place. Let us fill the Hall to overflowing.”<sup>22</sup>

Having used all sorts of theatrical entertainments the ladies in 1870 decided to try a Memorial Fair at which donated articles would be sold to the highest bidder and the graces of the ladies would be displayed in such a chaste but appealing fashion as to bring in more money. The president of the Memorial Association

18. Editorial *ibid.*, April 21 (3-1), 1869.

19. Mrs. V. M. Fleming, President the Kenmore Association, Fredericksburg, Va., to E. M. Coulter, July 11, 1935. Mrs. Fleming, then a girl of fifteen, took the part of a gypsy. Miss Mildred Rutherford was the queen.

20. *Southern Watchman*, May 17 (3-1), 1871. See also *ibid.*, May 23 (3-1).

21. Mrs. V. M. Fleming, Fredericksburg, Va., to E. M. Coulter, July 11, 1935. In 1871 the University boys criticised in their publication, the *Collegian*, the Ladies’ Memorial Association for not giving more support in the way of attendance on student shows. *Southern Watchman*, December 6 (2-4), 1871.

22. *Southern Watchman*, July 26, (3-1), 1871.

and its secretary (Mrs. Williams Rutherford and Miss Clara E. Barrow respectively), sent out the appeal: "Farmers, merchants, mechanics, lawyers, doctors, tradesmen, professors, teachers, scholars, help us. . . . Come one, come all, and let us raise our monument; let it be reared on high, so our children's children may from it learn how our own brave ones died." And a constant supporter of the Monument Fund called on everybody to bring something to be entered in the fair, adding, "Those who cannot contribute a bale of cotton or something more valuable, can send a bushel of potatoes or something else; and those who cannot do so much, can send a pair of socks or some other trifle."<sup>23</sup> The fair was a pronounced success. A bale of shirting contributed by a local manufacturer was sold for \$100 and the young ladies in carrying out their part "succeeded in getting greenbacks from many a dime-clutching bachelor, leaving them to depart with empty pockets, inquiring, 'Is it *fair* for *fair* ladies at a fair to act *un-fair*-ly in catching our dimes, even though they give us good fare in return?'"<sup>24</sup> As usual the *Southern Watchman* complimented the women of the Memorial Association "to whom can never be given sufficient praise for their noble self-sacrificing labors to raise a monument to the memory of the gallant heroes who fell beneath the Southern cross."<sup>25</sup>

It was now more than six years since General Lee had surrendered at Appomattox, two years longer than the war itself had lasted, and yet the ladies of Athens despite their continuous efforts had not been able to raise money sufficient to build their monument. But much progress had been made and victory was in sight if all persevered. To spur everyone forward and to renew the faith of all in final fulfillment of the dream, it was decided to lay the cornerstone on May 5, 1871. The ladies requested that all business in town be closed, that the schools be dismissed, and that all the people in Athens and Clarke County take part in the celebration. It was planned to meet at the University Chapel where a procession would be formed to march to the site of the monument

23. *Ibid.*, September 28 (3-3), 1870.

24. Editorial *ibid.*, December 14 (3-1). See also *Ibid.*, December 21 (3-1).

25. *Ibid.*, December 14 (3-1), 1870. The Ladies' Memorial Association gave a supper at Dupree Hall in December, 1871. *Ibid.*, December 13 (3-2), 1871.

for the dedicatory exercises, after which the soldiers' graves in the Athens cemetery would be decorated.<sup>26</sup>

On the appointed day, a great concourse of people assembled at the Chapel at 3 p.m. and formed a procession with Major Lamar Cobb as the marshal of the day. They marched in the following order:

1. Ladies of the Memorial Association
2. Clergy and the press
3. Intendant and wardens of the town
4. Masons
5. Odd Fellows
6. Good Templars
7. Hope Fire Company No. 1
8. Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company
9. Chancellor, faculty, and students of the University
10. Principal, teachers, and students of the University High School
11. Principal, teachers, and scholars of Lucy Cobb Institute
12. Principal, teachers, and scholars of Madame Sosnowski's Home School
13. All the other teachers and scholars of the town.
14. Citizens of the city and county on foot
15. Citizens of the city and county in carriages—and all others.

The procession took up this line of march: From the University Chapel to Broad Street and down this street to Thomas Street, thence up this street to its intersection with Hancock Street, westward on this street to College Avenue, thence southward on this street to its intersection with Market Street (later changed to Washington Street) to the site of the monument, in the center of the intersection of these two streets. The "vast crowd . . . larger than ever gathered on a former occasion" was arranged into a hollow square, and Albert L. Mitchell, a Confederate veteran who had lost an arm at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, made "a brief and appropriate address." The cornerstone was then laid by the Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge. Thereupon "the procession marched to the Oconee Cemetery where the ceremony of decorat-

26. *Ibid.*, April 26 (3-2), 1871.

ing soldiers' graves with bright Spring flowers was performed by the ladies of the town."<sup>27</sup>

The cornerstone had now been laid, the superstructure of Italian marble had been secured, and the names of the soldiers were being got ready to be carved into the stone. Work now could not stop, money must be raised, the monument must be completed; there must be another appeal. It was in the following August when the ladies issued their "Last Appeal." Books would be left at the principal stores and places of business in town in which gifts were to be recorded. The ladies hoped that a general meeting of the citizens might be called and "and those whose words can touch and move the soul, speak in behalf of our *Living Dead*." "Fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, husbands, sons, daughters, friends! help us! Can there not be found in this favored town ten generous hearts who will respond to this appeal and give us \$100.00 each? Can there not be found fifty who will give us \$10.00 each? And can there not be found one hundred who will give us \$5.00 each? A word to the good as well as to the wise is oft sufficient. This is our last appeal."

"As long as there's a heart to feel,  
A single tear to flow,  
We'll gather around this simple stone  
To tell their virtues o'er."<sup>28</sup>

This last appeal brought in more money, and carving the marble soon began. The sculptor was Markwalter of Augusta. The arrangement of names and the composition of inscriptions must now be determined. Here was some room for disagreement, even

27. *Ibid.*, May 10 (3-1). See also Hull, *Annals of Athens*, 338. An excellent picture of the monument in this location may be found in *Athens Banner*, December 21, 1906. This is a special edition in brochure form, with the pages unnumbered. This picture is near the end. A picture of it in this location may also be found in Albin Hajos, *Hajos' Athens, Ga. Photo-Gravures* (Athens, 1900). The pages in this collection of souvenir pictures are unnumbered but the monument may be seen on the page entitled "Churches." It is in front of the Baptist Church, in its old location. A recent reproduction of the picture in the *Athens Banner* referred to above may be seen on page 9 of *Athens, Georgia. Home of the University of Georgia, 1801-1951* (Athens, 1951).

28. *Southern Banner* (Athens, Ga.), August 18 (3-2), 1871; *Southern Watchman*, August 30 (3-2), 1871.

as there had in the beginning of the monument movement been a voice or two raised against erecting at all a monument.

The editor of the *Southern Watchman* had then, in April, 1866, suggested that the money being raised for the monument might best be spent for relieving the hunger and suffering of the widows and orphans of Confederate soldiers. "When Peace and Plenty shall smile once more upon our land," he said, "we will make it a labor of love to build a monument that shall commemorate, while Time endures, the worth and valor of the knightly dead."<sup>29</sup>

He was then living in an age before his country had developed the keenness of conscience and the sense of philanthropy which was to lead it after the Second World War to pour out billions of dollars in relief to those whom it had recently been fighting—former enemies now wisely being made friends of. It was not so after the Civil War, when white Southerners (of the same blood and only recently of the same nation and now again so) instead of being aided in their distress were beat down still further economically—politically and socially too.

And now again, soon after the laying of the cornerstone and the making of the "Last Appeal," an "Old Soldier" ventured the opinion: "While we believe the same amount of money, appropriated in a different way, would rear a monument in the hearts of the children and widows of those 'fallen heroes' far more desirable than anything that can be made by the sculptor's hand—yet, as the noble and patriotic ladies of Athens have assumed the responsibility and have taken so much pains and trouble to cherish the memory of our comrades-in-arms, we trust the appeal will be responded to in a manner alike creditable to those who give and to those who receive."

This same "Old Soldier," believing that all were equal and alike in death, felt that a monument to them should draw no distinction in rank. He wanted the names inscribed on the shaft to "be in the same style of lettering." "The name of the humblest private who fell in defence of the 'Lost Cause,'" he continued, "deserves the same prominence as that of the highest commissioned officer.

29. *Southern Watchman* April 18 (3-1), 1866.

There should be no distinction on the 'Roll of Fame.' Again, let the names be alphabetically arranged. This will place all on an equal footing, and at the same time refute the insinuations which have been occasionally whispered around—that this monument is intended only to honor the memory of a 'chosen few.'<sup>30</sup>

The feelings of "Old Soldier," honest and sensible as they are, did not retard and were not intended to retard the completion of the monument. And the day to which the ladies had been looking forward finally arrived. It was Monday, June 3, 1872; and the hands of the clock stood at 5 p.m., when the monument, beautifully decorated with flowers, was unveiled. A "large concourse of citizens" heard the Reverend Mr. Lewis offer a prayer and Alexander S. Erwin deliver "a chaste and appropriate address." But the orator had hardly begun when "one of the fiercest storms of wind, rain and lightening . . . seen for many a day suddenly burst forth in great fury." The crowd fled in all directions, but mostly to the near-by Baptist Church, where Erwin continued his address.<sup>31</sup>

He paid tribute to the soldiers who had given their lives for the South, he predicted that the South would rise out of its present low estate forced upon it by the atrocious Reconstruction policies of the Radicals, and he praised the unparalleled energy and devotion of the Ladies' Memorial Association which had made possible the monument. "Athens today," he said, "weeps over her fallen sons—some of them poured out their lives in red libations on fields that their valor and prowess have rendered historic forever. Others of them sank beneath the load of privation, fatigue and disease, and perished in the camp, on the march or in the gloomy Hospital, while others taken prisoners by the foe were immured in Northern dungeons, and like caged eagles pined and drooped and died."

But the South was rising again: "In spite of the desolation and devastation produced by years of war, and years of what is called peace; in spite of the loss of hopes the fondest and the dearest; in spite of disappointment the sorest and bitterest; in spite of humiliation the deepest and most shameful; in spite of oppression the most tyrannical and malignant; in spite of robbery the most

30. *Ibid.*, August 23 (3-2), 1871.

31. *Southern Banner*, June 7 (3-2), 1872; *Southern Watchman*, June 5 (3-1), June 12 (3-2), 1872.

flagrant and atrocious [*sic*]; in spite of all the vials of wrath that the most cruel and develish hate could pour upon their heads; in spite of the treachery and betrayal of once trusted friends and cherished children; in spite of everything that can break the spirits and crush the hopes of a brave people—they have exhibited a recuperative energy and power unparalleled in history.”<sup>32</sup>

In 1871 the monument had been dedicated in laying the cornerstone and now it had been unveiled; but it was not complete for the topmost shaft was yet to be placed in position and the entire cost of the monument had not yet been met. So there were more entertainments for money-raising. While the enthusiasm of the moment was high, the young ladies of the town gave a performance at Dupree’s Hall, at which they raised \$400 or \$500. On this occasion an old gentleman who was never known for his public speaking arose and spoke with such fervor and eloquence that a great amount of what was obtained that evening was made up of voluntary contributions in response to his effective appeal.<sup>33</sup> The total cost of the monument was \$4,444.44—an amount made up of the digit 4 instead of the more mystic 7.<sup>34</sup>

Henry Grady allowed the spell of his oratory to obscure the exact fact when he said that this monument was “a plain, white shaft.” It was not just one shaft, nor was it plain. There were six segments of marble, variously decorated and engraved with names, resting on three great blocks of granite. The whole effect was of dignity and grace, resembling a miniature gothic steeple. Chancellor Andrew A. Lipscomb of the University of Georgia composed the inscriptions which were placed on the four sides of the monument. On the east side chiselled on the fifth marble segment were these words:

ERECTED  
BY THE  
LADIES’  
MEMORIAL  
ASSOCIATION  
1871

32. *Southern Banner*, June 14 (3-5), (3-6), (3-7), 1872.

33. *Southern Watchman*, June 12 (3-2), 1872. See also *ibid.*, September 13 (3-1), 1871.

34. *Athens Banner*, April 26 (3-2), 1912.



On the east side of the second marble segment:

True to the Soil  
 That gave them Birth and reared them Men;  
 True to their Ancestors of High Renown  
 And Hallowed Worth;  
 Cherishing the Sentiments of Home and Country  
 And the Allegiance there unto Due  
 As One and Inseparable;  
 These Heroes—Ours in the Unity of Blood,  
 Ours in the Unity of Patriotism,  
 Struggled for the Rights of States  
 As Held by the Fathers of the Republic  
 And by the Fathers as a Sacred trust  
 Unto them, Bequeathed.  
 The measure of their years, suddenly completed  
 In the fatal Issues of Battle.  
 Reached the Consummation of Earthly Glory  
 By their Death.  
 Last and Holliest Office of Human Fidelity  
 Possible to Brave Men.  
 Attesting their sincerity, Proving their Honor,  
 And sealing their Integrity.  
 They won their Title to an Immortality  
 Of Love and Reverence.

On the south side of the fifth marble segment:

IN A COUNTRY'S  
 MEMORY  
 HER BRAVE  
 ARE IMMORTAL

On the south side of the second marble segment:

CONFEDERATE DEAD OF ATHENS, GA.  
 [followed by a list of officers and men].

On the west side of the fifth marble segment:

TO OUR  
 CONFEDERATE DEAD



On the west side of the second marble segment:

FAITH  
IN  
GOD [surrounded by a laurel wreath  
between two Confederate flags draped around two stacked rifles.]  
On the north side of the fifth marble segment:

BRIGHT ANGELS  
COME  
AND GUARD OUR  
SLEEPING  
HEROES

On the north side of the second marble segment:

CONFEDERATE DEAD OF CLARKE CO., GA.

[followed by a list of officers and men]

On the four sides of the first marble block were inscribed the names of men and officers.<sup>35</sup> The desires of "Old Soldier," who had wanted the names of all soldiers listed alphabetically without regard to rank were not followed entirely. The officers were listed first and in the order of their rank, beginning with General Thomas R. R. Cobb, but thereafter the alphabetical order was followed.

35. Although a long list of names of officers and soldiers appeared on the temporary shaft erected in Oconee Cemetery on May 4, 1866, it was not complete. See *Southern Watchman*, May 8 (3-1), 1866. After the cornerstone had been laid in 1871, the ladies of the Memorial Association renewed their efforts to make the list complete. They called on everyone who could aid, to do so. *Ibid.*, November 22 (3-1), 1871. The following names were carved on the monument. On the east side of the first marble segment are these names (with no indication as to whether from Athens or Clarke County): Griffith D., Gober J. W., Glover J., Hunt, W. W., Hardigree J., Johnson N. L., Jones, J., Jackson Z., Jones J., [sic], Kidd H. M., Kennedy J., Loving W., Lowe, W., Mosley T. J., Maxey S. T., Maxey, H., McWhorter W. P., Middlebrooks, W., Michael J., Nunnally G. W., Nunnally W. C., Owens J. J., Owens B. J., Plunket W., Purman J.

On the south side of the first marble segment are these names (with no indication as to whether from Athens or Clarke County): Bradberry J. M., Blair E. P., Berger J., Carter H. F., Carter E., Cooper A. H., Daniell J. B., Daniell N. J., Daniell J. H. [sic], Doolittle H., Doggitt G. W., Doggitt T., Daniel J., Daniel N., East W., East S., Edwards W. B., Elder F. G., Elder J. C., Fullilove J., Fullerlove W., Fullerlove H. P., Fambrough J., Giles W. T., Griffith D. W.

On the west side of the first marble segment are these names (with no indication as to whether from Athens or Clarke County): Col. S. P. Lumpkin, Adj. F. M. Daniell, Capt. J. H. McRee, Lt. Z. Crenshaw, Lt. E. T. Griffith, Lt. W. C. Williams, S'g't M. Elder, S'g't G. W. Redmond, S'g't P. W.

This monument was long cherished by Athenians, but with the coming of modern times, when people were in a great hurry to get from one place to another, often without any definite purpose in mind, the monument came to be looked upon more as an impediment than a sentiment. So it was first moved from its site in the midst of the intersection of College Avenue and Washington Street to a location one half block northward on College Avenue in the center of the thoroughfare. As traffic became more congested here between the City Hall and the Postoffice, the monument was again transplanted. It was now moved southward two and a half blocks on College Avenue and placed in the middle of Broad Street on the west tangent of College and Broad. But later when Broad Street became the main artery of traffic through

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Bradberry, S'g't J. E. Haygood, S'g't G. W. Klutts, S'g't J. H. Jackson, S'g't J. W. Hunt, S'g't M. Mooney, Aycock J. R., Adams W. T., Allen S. B., Anderson W., Adams, J. A., Biggs J. P., Butler J. M., Butler D. R., Burger A., Bradberry C. C., Bradberry J. E.

On the north side of the first marble segment are these names (with no indication as to whether from Athens or Clarke County): Robertson W. A., Royster J. E., Roberson T. J., Ragsdale J., Simonton T. J., Simonton H., Stewart P. M., Stewart N. H., Spenser W. H., Thompson T. J., Thompson J., Tiller G., Wilcoxon S. J., Willoughby W., Whitehead A., Whitehead H., Whitehead J. P., Wise W., Wise F., Wright W.

On the south side of the second marble segment are these names of officers and men of Athens: Gen. T. R. R. Cobb, Col. W. G. Delony, Lt. Col. J. Barrow, Maj. Wm. S. Grady, Maj. B. A. Hill, Maj. F. Cook, Capt. T. Camak, Lt. T. J. Dunnahoo, Lt. G. E. Hayes, Lt. J. H. Hunter, Lt. G. J. Newton, S'g't J. G. Bridges, S'g't B. Harrison, S'g't B. Mell, Capt W. A. Winn, Corp. G. C. Graham, Aaron, S. T., Adams, T. A., Capt. Jacob Phinizy of the 8th Ga. Regt., Allman, Wm., Barber, C. A., Barrett, J. J., Biggers, W. E., Billups, C. W., Billups, T. C., Bird, L. W., Blackburne, J., Bone, J. C., Carlton, B. R., Chase, Wm. M., Crane, J., Dixon, J., Fitzpatrick, J. C., Gee, W. H., Huggins, A. M., Kirkpatrick, W. H., Lucas, C. E., McCleskey, J. H., McDonald, D., McHarmon, Wm., Mason, J. P., Mitchell, J. T., Moore, R., Newton, A. C., Parks, J., Parr, B., Parrish, Wm., Pinkard, J., Reynolds, S. A., Sewell, Wm., Smith, J. W., Stapler, Wm. H., Tenny, J., Walker, J. S., Wilson, Wm., Capt. I. S. Vincent.

On the north side of the second marble segment are the names of these officers and men of Clarke County: Lt. G. A. Delacy, Serg't W. L. Griffith, Corp'l W. T. Delacy, Adams, J. H., Akin, E. J., Benedict, J., Bone, J. M., Britain, W. J., Brown, W. B., Brown, J. M., Butler, J. L., Butler, E. M., Butler, B. L., Butler, T., Cooper, Wm., Cook, D., Cook, W. F., Cook, J., Craft, E., Dean, C. N., Doster, J., Dorster, F. M., Echols, J. M., Edwards, M., Evans, J., Fowler, C., Freeman, G., Fergurson, J. S., Freeman, H. H., Griffith, J., Griffith, W. L., Hale, R. O., Hayes, P. W., Hinesly [*sic*], Jackson, W. H. H., Jennings, S. D., Jennings, G. H., Johnson, J. J., Kenny, J. F., Kenny, J. J. N., Lee, A. E., Locklin, N. B., Moncrief, D., Moon, J. A., Murry, W., Nabers, J., Nabers, Z. L., Nabers, W., Nabers, Z., Neese, P. N., Nix, R., Palmer, J. A., Richardson, B. B., Richardson, D., Simmes, J. W., Stephenson, J. W. H., Sykes, J. M., Sykes, R., Thurmond, H., Thurmond, J., Tuck, R. J., Tuck, T., Tiller, F. C., White, H. F., Yerby, B. E., Lt. J. W. Reaves.

Athens, the devotees of progress raised a campaign to send the monument on its way again. But those who believed that some good had come out of the past and that it was worth a minute in the whirl of going somewhere to contemplate where they had once been, finally won the fight. Broad Street was found to be wide enough to give a place to the monument as well as to accommodate those who were passing by—its base was embedded in concrete extending westward on Broad to include the monument to Elijah Clarke, the hero of another Rebellion, which by gaining success, became the Revolution.

The Athens Confederate monument had come at a time when the raising of money for such a purpose was a difficult task, though a labor of love. By the late 1890s the monument movement had ceased to be so much a genuine sentimental expression of regard for the memory of Confederate soldiers as it had come to be a commercial movement engineered by marble and granite companies to boost their business.<sup>36</sup> These later monuments were paid for by appropriations from city, county, and state funds. In the course of time, the Ladies' Memorial Association of Athens disappeared, and the Daughters of the Confederacy, who arose continued the remembrance of the Confederate veterans but in the latter days by listening to speeches on the virtues of the "Heroes in Grey," while a wreath of artificial magnolia leaves was laid on the monument on Broad Street and the graves in Oconee Cemetery no longer received the decorations which were once their due reward.

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36. In Georgia alone by 1911 there had been completed 106 monuments, and others were on the way. *Athens Banner*, April 26 (22-1), 1912.